IN THE CLAIMS

1. (cancelled) ~~A method of modifying one or more characteristics of a plant comprising introducing into the plant a combination of sequences, each sequence comprising a gene encoding an enzyme having starch synthase activity, or a sequence functionally equivalent thereto, or an effective part thereof, each sequence being operably linked to a promoter so as to affect the expression of corresponding endogenous genes in the plant.~~

2. (cancelled) ~~A method according to claim 1, wherein the combination of sequences is introduced into the plant substantially simultaneously.~~

3. (cancelled) ~~A method according to claim 2, wherein the combination of sequences is introduced into the plant on a single nucleic acid construct.~~

4. (cancelled) ~~A method according to claim 1, wherein a first sequence comprising a gene encoding an enzyme having starch synthase activity or a sequence functionally equivalent thereto, is introduced into a plurality of plants and one or more of the plurality of plants are selected for introduction of a second sequence comprising a second gene encoding an enzyme having starch synthase activity or a sequence functionally equivalent thereto.~~

5. (cancelled) ~~A method according to claim 1, effective in modifying one or more properties of starch produced by the plant.~~

6. (cancelled) ~~A method according to claim 1, wherein the introduced sequences are operably linked, directly or indirectly, in an antisense orientation to a promoter.~~

7. (cancelled) ~~A method according to claim 1, wherein the introduced sequences comprise a gene encoding potato starch synthase II (SSII) enzyme~~

~~and a gene encoding potato starch synthase III (SSIII) enzyme or sequences functionally equivalent thereto.~~

8. (cancelled) ~~A plant modified by the method of any claim 1, or the progeny of or part of such a plant.~~

9. (cancelled) ~~A plant according to claim 8, wherein the plant is selected from potato, cassava, maize, wheat, barley, tomato, rice and pea.~~

10. (cancelled) ~~A method of preparing a food product comprising using a plant or part thereof according to claim 8.~~

11. Cancelled.

12. Cancelled.

13. Cancelled.

14. Cancelled.

15. Cancelled.

16. Cancelled.

17. Cancelled.

18. Cancelled.

19. Cancelled.

20. Cancelled.

21. Cancelled.

22. Cancelled.

23. Cancelled.

24. Cancelled.

25. (previously presented) A method of producing starch comprising modifying one or more characteristics of a plant comprising introducing into the plant a combination of sequences, each sequence comprising a gene encoding an enzyme having starch synthase activity, or a sequence functionally equivalent thereto, or an effective part thereof, each sequence being operably linked to a promoter so as to affect the expression of corresponding endogenous genes in the plant and extracting starch from the plant.

26. (cancelled) ~~A nucleic acid construct comprising a combination of sequences, each sequence comprising a gene encoding an enzyme having starch synthase activity, or a functionally equivalent sequence thereof or an effective part thereof, each sequence being operably linked to a promoter.~~

27. (cancelled) ~~A nucleic acid construct according to claim 26, suitable for performing a method in accordance with claim 1.~~

28. (cancelled) ~~A plant comprising a construct according to claim 26, or the progeny of or part of such a plant.~~

29. (previously presented) A plant comprising starch which, when extracted from the plant, has a viscosity onset temperature as judged by viscoamylograph of a 10% w/w aqueous suspension at atmospheric pressure using a Newport

Scientific Rapid Visco Analyser reduced by at least 12°C compared to starch extracted from equivalent, unmodified plants.

30. (previously presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein the combination of sequences is introduced into the plant substantially simultaneously.

31. (previously presented) A method according to claim 30, wherein the combination of sequences is introduced into the plant on a single nucleic acid construct.

32. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 25, wherein a first sequence comprising a gene encoding an enzyme having starch synthase activity or a sequence functionally equivalent thereto, is introduced into a plurality of plants and one or more of the plurality of plants are selected for introduction of a second sequence comprising a second gene encoding an enzyme having starch synthase activity or a sequence functionally equivalent thereto.

33. (previously presented) A method according to claim 25, effective in modifying one or more properties of starch produced by the plant.

34. (previously presented) A method according to claim 25, wherein the introduced sequences are operably linked, directly or indirectly, in an antisense orientation to a promoter.

35. (previously presented) A method according to claim 25, wherein the introduced sequences comprise a gene encoding potato starch synthase II (SSII) enzyme and a gene encoding potato starch synthase III (SSIII) enzyme or sequences functionally equivalent thereto.

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 25 and 29-35 were pending.

Claims 30-31 and 32 have been restricted under 35 U.S.C. § 121.

Claim 32 has been withdrawn subject to rejoinder if the linking claims are found allowable.

Claims 25 and 29-31 and 33-35 are presented for consideration.